

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In light of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested.

I. STATUS OF CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-35 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 12, 19-30, and 32-35 have been amended in this response. Claims 14 and 31 are hereby cancelled without prejudice or surrender of subject matter. New claims 36-37 have been added. No new matter has been added.

It is submitted that these claims are patentably distinct from the prior art, and that these claims are in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. The remarks made herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103 or 112; but rather the remarks are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. CLAIM OBJECTIONS AND REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 20-25 were objected as being non-commensurate with the preamble of previously amended claim 19. Claims 20-35 have been amended in this response to overcome this objection.

Claims 12 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite. These claims have been amended to obviate the rejection.

III. THE REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) HAVE BEEN OVERCOME

Initially, the Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 12-14 and 29-31 contain al-

allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In the office action, claims 1-11, 15-28 and 32-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,718,896 to Davenport (hereinafter, merely "Davenport").

Independent claims 1 and 19 are hereby amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claims 14 and 31 respectively, thereby obviating the §102 rejections.

New and independent claims 36 and 37 incorporate the allowable subject matter contained in claims 12, 13 and 29, 30 respectively, and are therefore allowable.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from independent claims 1 or 19 discussed above, and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

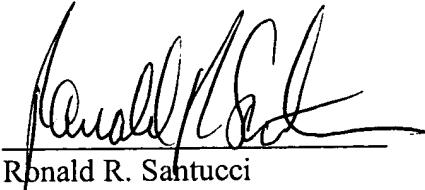
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the instant claims should be allowed and that the instant application is now in condition for allowance. In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any fees incurred by reason of this response and not paid herewith to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By:


Ronald R. Santucci
Reg. No. 28,988
(212) 588-0800